

Please delete paragraph 25 and replace with:

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Wedge etalon 26 also acts as an interference filter, with non-parallel reflective faces 32, 34 providing tapered shape. Wedge etalon 26 may comprise, for example, a tapered transparent substrate, a tapered air gap between the reflective surfaces of adjacent transparent substrates, or a thin film "wedge interference filter. Wedge etalon 26 as shown in FIG. 1 is only one tunable element or channel selector which may be used in accordance with the invention in an external cavity laser. Wedge etalon 26 may be replaced with a variety of tunable elements other than an etalon, such as grating devices and electro-optic devices. The use of an air gap wedge etalon as a channel selector is described in U.S. Patent No. 6,108,355, wherein the "wedge" is a tapered air gap defined by adjacent substrates. The use of pivotally adjustable grating devices as channel selectors tuned by grating angle adjustment and the use of an electro-optic tunable channel selector in an external cavity laser and tuned by selective application of voltage are described in U.S. Patent Application Ser. No. 09/814,646 to inventor Andrew Daiber and filed on March 21, 2001. The use of a translationally tuned graded thin film interference filter is described in U.S. Patent Application Ser. No. 09/814,646 and in U.S. Patent Application Ser. No. 09/900,412 entitled "Graded Thin Film Wedge Interference Filter and Method of Use for Laser Tuning" to inventors Hopkins et al., co-filed herewith. The aforementioned disclosures are incorporated herein by reference.

Please delete paragraph 32 and replace with:

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During tuning of wedge etalon 26, the length of the laser external cavity may also be tuned by positional adjustment of end mirror 14 using another tuning mechanism (not shown) which may comprise a DC servomotor, solenoid, voice coil actuator, piezoelectric actuator, ultrasonic driver, shape memory device, or other type of actuator. In certain embodiments, end mirror 14 may be positioned using selective heating or cooling of a compensating element coupled to the end mirror, as disclosed in U.S. Patent Application Ser. No. 09/900,443 entitled "Laser Apparatus with Active Thermal Tuning of External Cavity" to inventors Tuganov et al., filed concurrently herewith and incorporated herein by reference. The tuning of an external laser cavity with an electro-optic element according to error signals derived from voltage monitored across a gain medium is described in U.S. Patent Application Ser. No. 09/900,426 entitled "Evaluation and Adjustment of Laser Losses According to Voltage Across Gain Medium" to inventors Daiber et al., filed concurrently herewith and incorporated herein by reference.

Please delete paragraph 38 and replace with:

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A heat source 54 may be used to heat gain medium 12 when gain medium 12 is not powered, in order to maintain an elevated temperature for the anti-reflective coating on the output facet 16 and prevent condensation thereon when